



Metro

Daily Brief

Thursday, December 01, 2005

20051201-0

CEO Roger Snoble

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President Signs H.R. 3058

Yesterday, President George W. Bush signed into law H.R. 3058, the Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006 (PL 109-115). The act provides over \$850 million in formula and discretionary funds for transportation needs in Los Angeles County. Consistent with its Full Funding Grant Agreement and Metro's Legislative Program, the Eastside Light Rail Line received an earmark of \$80 million in section 5309 New Starts funds.

Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee Approves North Hollywood Parking Lot Motion

Yesterday, the Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee approved Councilmember LaBonge's motion directing City staff to discuss with us the feasibility of establishing a temporary parking lot for transit riders at the southwest corner of South Chandler and Lankershim Boulevards. At the meeting, Metro staff commented that we are studying the issue. The Committee requested a report back in January.

Metro Orange Line Accident

This morning at approximately 6:30 A.M., a pick-up truck traveling southbound on Kester Avenue collided with a westbound Orange Line Metro Liner. There were three minor injuries reported and damage to the Metro Liner was minimal. The pick-up truck had extensive damage. Los Angeles Sheriff Deputies at the scene reported that the driver of the pick-up truck apparently ran a red light before colliding with the Metro Liner.

Numerous media outlets covered this morning's collision. Media Relations staff told reporters that this was only the fourth accident on the Metro Orange Line in more than a month of operation. Metro Liners have traveled more than 130,000 miles in this period. It appears in all four accidents car or truck drivers went through red lights, however, staff stressed Metro is doing all it can to improve safety on three fronts: education, enforcement and engineering. The three-pronged approach appears to be working since fewer citations are being issued and there hadn't been an accident since November 2 before today.

A Metro Orange Line Safety Task Force sub-group (Metro Operations, Metro Safety, LADOT and Law Enforcement) will perform a site specific evaluation of this intersection tomorrow morning. We will continue with our inter agency efforts to make the Metro Orange Line as safe as possible.

Late this afternoon we learned that John Walsh and the United Riders of Los Angeles were set to hold a 5 p.m. news conference in North Hollywood calling for a 72-hour shut down of the Metro Orange Line to conduct a safety audit of the system. The group, led by John Walsh, also plans to call upon the Mayor to ride the line end-to-end to reassure the public that the system is safe. The Los Angeles Times has requested statistics on accidents that occur on other Metro Bus and Rail Lines compared to the recent level of accidents that have occurred on the Metro Orange Line.

Metro Honors Rosa Parks

Metro held a press event this morning to pay tribute to civil rights leader Rosa Parks. A commemorative poster was unveiled that will be displayed on more than 2,200 Metro buses. CEO Roger Snoble served as master-of-ceremonies. Also participating in the ceremony were Metro Board members Bernard Parks and Bonnie Lowenthal, Doug Failing of Caltrans, Metro South Bay Sector General Manager Dana Coffey and Arthur Winston. Channels 5, 7, 18 and 62, Los Angeles Times, Korea Times, La Opinion, and Downtown News covered the event. Channel 4 also publicized the tribute and interviews were given to KFWB and Wave Newspapers.

Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting

The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board met today and recommended, as amended, that the LACMTA Board approve the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Los Angeles Mid-City Westside Transit Corridor, Mid-City/Exposition Light Rail Transit Project as the Light Rail Transit Build Alternative from Downtown Los Angeles (7th/Metro Center) to Culver City (Venice/Robertson Station) incorporating the following design options:

- a. Flower Street East Side Design Option incorporating an undercrossing between Jefferson Boulevard and Trousdale Parkway with option for a
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- future USC/Exposition Park Station near Kinsey Drive;
- b. La Brea Aerial Station & Grade Separation;
- c. La Cienega Station Parking Facility on Southeast Corner (East Central Interceptor Sewer- ECIS Construction Staging Site);
- d. Jefferson Boulevard Northside Widening at La Cienega Boulevard;
- e. Jefferson Boulevard Grade Separation near Ballona Creek; and
- f. Venice/Robertson Interim Station located East of National Boulevard within the Metro-owned Exposition Right-of-Way.

The amendment by Culver City Vice Mayor Gary Silbiger 1) excludes the at-grade station at Venice/Robertson and at-grade crossings of Washington/National Boulevards from further consideration, 2) continues to consider the aerial station at Venice/Robertson and the grade separation of Washington/National Boulevards and expressly certify the final EIS/EIR to include this aerial station option and 3) continue to work with Culver City staff towards implementing the aerial station when funding becomes available.

The Expo Board also approved the contract for procurement support services with TEC Management Consultants, Inc. and carried over revisions to the Administrative Code until next month to incorporate several additional changes to the code.

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